

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicant thanks the Examiner for examining the pending application. The Office Action dated November 20, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-7 are rejected. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 5 to further define the invention. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Duijneveldt (US Patent 5,975,722), and rejects claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Duijneveldt (US Patent 5,975,722). Further, claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended, hence the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph is now moot.

Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a low voltage of an AC voltage directly supplied to the low voltage electrode of the lamp and a high voltage of the AC voltage directly supplied to the high voltage electrode of the lamp, wherein the low voltage electrode directly supplied with the low voltage and the high voltage electrode directly supplied with the high voltage at the first ends of the lamps are alternately disposed at the first side of the lamp housing, and the low voltage electrode directly supplied with the low voltage and the high voltage electrode directly supplied with the high voltage at the second ends of the lamps are alternately disposed at the second side of the lamp housing".

Claim 5 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 5 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a low voltage of an AC voltage directly supplied to the low voltage electrode of the lamp and a high voltage of the AC voltage directly supplied to the high voltage electrode of the lamp, wherein the low voltage electrode directly supplied with the low voltage and the high voltage electrode directly supplied with the high voltage at the first ends of

the lamps are alternately disposed at the first side of the lamp housing, and the low voltage electrode directly supplied with the low voltage and the high voltage electrode directly supplied with the high voltage at the second ends of the lamps are alternately disposed at the second side of the lamp housing”.

In Duijneveldt (FIG. 1A), power sources 8 and 9 are not supplied to both end portions (a, b) of each lamp. In other words, power source 8 is supplied to an end portion (a) of a lamp 4 and an end portion (a) of a lamp 4'', and power source 9 is supplied to an end portion (b) of a lamp 5 and an end portion (b) of lamp 5''. But, none of power sources 8 and 9 is supplied to an end portion (b) of a lamp 4, an end portion (b) of a lamp 4'', an end portion (b) of a lamp 5, and an end portion (b) of a lamp 5''. In addition, power source 8 and 9 are not supplied to end portions (a, b) of lamps 4', 4'', 5' and 5''.

In contrast, in the present invention, a low voltage of an AC voltage is supplied to a low voltage electrode of each lamp and a high voltage of the AC voltage is supplied to a high voltage electrode of each lamp.

In the meantime, in Duijneveldt, one power source is connected to two lamps different from each other. In contrast, in the present invention, low and high voltages of an AC voltage are supplied to low and high electrodes of one lamp.

Thus, Duijneveldt fails to disclose this feature of the claimed invention. In addition, Duijneveldt fails to teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 5 and claims 2-4 and 6-7, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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